

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5098

UNCLAS PARIS 27222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, EGEN

SUBJECT: 3M CORPORATION REQUEST FOR STATEMENT
FROM SENATOR CHURCH ON CORRUPTION ALLEGATION

1. FRENCH BUSINESS-ORIENTED WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE
LEPOINT CARRIED ARTICLE IN SEPTEMBER 6 ISSUE ON
LOCKHEED SCANDEL, PRESUMABLY EMANATING FROM
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT JEAN LEFEVRE, REPORTING
"REVELATION" BY CHURCH COMMITTEE THAT 3M CORPORATION,
AMONG 85 OTHER US FIRMS, HAS "CONSTANTLY ENGAGED IN
UNDER-THE-TABLE CORRUPTION ON INTERNATIONAL SCALE."
THIS STORY HAS ALREADY CAUSED 3M FRANCE CONSIDERABLE
EMBARRASSMENT WITH BOTH CUSTOMERS AND COMPANY
PERSONNEL.

2. ACCORDING TO PETER DANOS, PRESIDENT OF 3M FRANCE
(ALSO PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN
FRANCE), HIS HEAD OFFICE IN ST. PAUL HAS CAREFULLY
REVIEWED PUBLIC RECORD OF CHURCH COMMITTEE
INVESTIGATION AND HAS FOUND NO RPT NO DEROGATORY
REFERENCE TO 3M CORPORATION. 3M HAS "CLEAR
CONSCIENCE" AND CAN ONLY ASSUME REPORT IS RESULT OF
MISUNDERSTANDING.

3. 3M WANTS LEPOINT TO PRINT RETRACTION IN NEXT
ISSUE, WHICH WILL BE DATELINED SEPT. 27, BUT FEELS
STRONGLY THAT ONLY HOPE OF CLEARING RECORD WOULD BE
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IF SENATOR CHURCH COULD SEND TELEGRAM TO LEPOINT

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT DENYING THAT HIS INVESTIGATION
HAD UNCOVERED ANY WRONG-DOING ON PART OF 3M.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT, IN ITS DISCRETION, URGE
SENATOR CHURCH TO SEND SUCH A TELEGRAM IN INTEREST
OF JUSTICE AND TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE FRENCH REACTION
AGAINST 3M FRANCE. FOR OPTIMUM EFFECT TELEGRAM SHOULD
REACH LEPOINT WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT NLT WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 22.
RUSH

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